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## EDITORIAL.

**W**E were the first to announce as long ago  
as May last that a set of stamps was in  
contemplation surcharged—"NAVY—  
OFFICIAL" and now Mr. A. B. Creeke  
informs the *London Philatelist* that ½d.,  
1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., and 3d., postage stamps as  
well the 3d., Registration Envelope and the ½d.,  
Post Card have appeared with the overprint  
"ADMIRALTY—OFFICIAL". The gradually grow-  
ing list of British Official stamps is thus  
assuming alarming dimensions for the general  
collector especially in view of the difficulty of  
obtaining copies of many of them. Everything,  
however, may become an "area of collecting"  
for the specialist and we know of one collector  
who devotes his energies solely to the Official  
stamps of Great Britain and the United States.  
There is however the prospect of a way of  
escape from the multiplicity of official stamps  
for the generalist, though whether he will take  
advantage of it will possibly be a matter of  
considerable discussion in the philatelic press.  
Quite lately we have seen some Australian  
stamps, which, instead of being overprinted  
"O. S.", are perforated with these initials and  
we have heard a rumour that this method will  
be adopted by the Board of Education for their  
stamps, a practice which may extend to the  
other Government Departments using special  
stamps. Now will these punctured stamps be  
collectible or rather, for anything is collectible,  
will they be collected and catalogued. For  
those who collect stamps surcharged "O. S."  
or "I. R. OFFICIAL" etc. logic seems to compel  
the collection of stamps perforated with these  
words. But then on the other hand, as a  
matter of fact, there is at the present time, a  
decided tendency to ignore the old official  
stamps of Western Australia, which are only  
distinguished from the ordinary one by a piece  
punched out. The topic which thus arises for

discussion involves some very nice points, for  
if "initial-perforated" official stamps are not  
worth cataloguing them why catalogue the  
overprinted stamps and if they are, where,  
especially in British Stamps, is the line to be  
drawn? Are stamps perforated with initials of  
County Councils official?

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No purely fiscal Exhibition has been held  
since that of the Leeds Philatelic Society in  
1894, though a fiscal section has now and  
then been included with postage stamps,  
to mention only that of the I.P.U. in  
1901. Some of the prominent members of the  
fiscal philatelic ranks think it is now high time  
that another should be held and the matter has  
indeed come before the Fiscal Philatelic Society  
in a more or less informal manner. That body,  
however, is not yet in a position to bear the  
burden of so great an undertaking and so the  
proposed Exhibition must stand over for future  
consideration. Perhaps this is just as well for,  
if the Society's Catalogue of British Colonials  
gets published during the next few months we  
may legitimately expect a number of new  
recruits in the fiscal ranks and the matter of  
ways and means for an Exhibition may find a  
solution. Yet though there is no prospect in  
the immediate future of an exhibition here, yet  
we find that our friends across the pond seem to  
have held a successful show under the auspices  
of the American Fiscal Society. We append a  
report taken from *Mitchell's Weekly*.

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## SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF REVENUES.

"The special exhibition of Revenue stamps  
made by members of the American Fiscal  
Society, of New York, at the rooms of the  
Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute  
of Arts and Science, Art Building, Brooklyn,  
on Friday evening, February 13, 1903, was  
largely attended by philatelists from surround-  
ing boroughs, who were present to view one  
of the first exhibitions of this character given  
in this country.

"Foreign revenues were exhibited by Messrs  
Albert E. Lawrence, G. W. Pepper and Dr.  
L. W. Homburger, while regular issues of  
United States revenues were exhibited by  
Clarence H. Eagle and match and medicine  
by A. G. Bishop. These magnificent collec-  
tions cannot be too highly commented upon.

"Mr. Eagle made a very interesting address  
concerning "Revenues and their Collection"  
While Mr. Eagle has a large general collection,  
his stronghold is United States revenues and  
his collection of these probably has no equal in  
this country. He believes in doing every-  
thing possible to encourage the boy to become  
a collector, saying that very often the young-  
ster will delve among old papers in the garret,  
bringing out many specimens that older  
collectors could not find after seeking for  
years.

"The president of the section then thanked  
the members of the American Fiscal Society  
for the very successful exhibition of fiscals  
which they had made and expressed the wish  
that their society would make a larger exhibi-  
tion at some future date."